



FACT SHEET



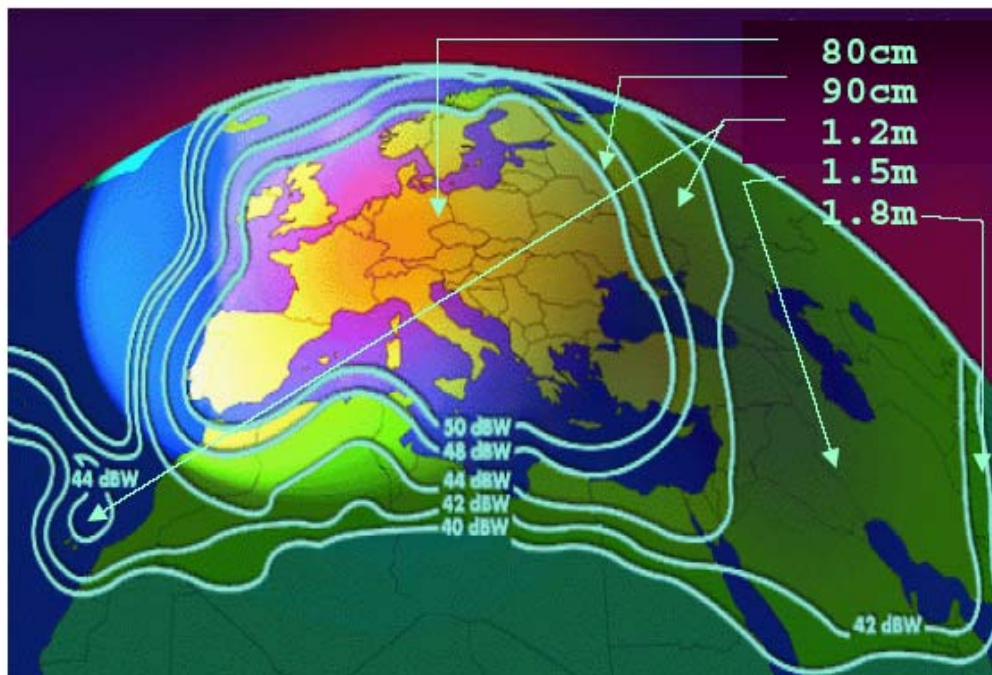
AFRTS DIRECT-TO-HOME (Europe) SERVICE

Since December of 1998, the European Command (EUCOM), the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES), the Naval Exchange Command (NEXCOM), and AFRTS have jointly sponsored a satellite direct-to-home (DTH) service for servicemembers, DoD civilian employees and their family members living offbase in the EUCOM area of operation (minus Central and Southern Africa).

Using two powerful European Telecommunications Satellite (EUTELSAT) Hotbird signals, AFRTS delivers seven television services, a program guide, and eleven radio services that are received in the European area with an 80- centimeter satellite dish and an integrated receiver/decoder (IRD). Both the dish and the IRD are available through most European AAFES and NEXCOM stores. The IRD can be either leased or purchased.

At the beginning of the DTH program, EUCOM estimated that there were approximately 50,000 households living off base in their theater of operation, and almost all of these households were able to receive either just one over-the-air AFRTS television service or no service at all. As of August 2005, over 30,000 IRDs have been leased or purchased through the European and Southwest Asia AAFES and NEXCOM stores.

Hotbird 4



For more information, please see <http://www.afrts.osd.mil>

Hotbird 6

